

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 OES-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /067 W
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R 011145Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0166

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 3204

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR,NO,UR,SV

SUBJECT: USSR AND SVALBARD

REF: OSLO 3026

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY'S POLAR ADVISER BUCHER-JOHANNESSEN INFORMED ME RECENTLY THAT THE SOVIETS WERE MORE ACTIVE THAN USUAL IN VISITING SVALBARD. CONTRARY TO INFORMATION HE HAD RECEIVED(REFTEL)SOVIET AMBASSADOR KIRICHENKO HAD ALREADY VISITED SVALBARD JULY 9-14WITH APPARENTLY TWO AIDES, ONE OF THEM ATTACHE NIKITA L. ALEKSEEV, WHO WAS FORMERLY STATIONED AT BARENTSBERG. WHEN I ASKED KIRICHENKO RECENTLY AT RECEPTION WHETHER HE PLANNED TO ATTEND 50TH ANNIVERSARY CEREMONY,HE CONFIRMED SPECULATION THAT SOVIET NOSES ARE OUT OF JOINT OVER NORWEGIAN ARRANGEMENTS FOR LOWKEY CERE-
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MONEY BY FEIGNING INDIFFERENCE AND COMMENTING THAT HE MAY SEND HIS

COUNSELOR. DCM SMIRNOV ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE MIGHT, IN FACT, ATTEND ON BEHALF OF HIS AMBASSADOR. BUCHER-JOHANNESSEN HAD SOME DOUBTS WHETHER KIRICHENKO AND HIS WIFE WOULD BE TAKING SHIP TO SVALBARD ON AUGUST 8 AS REPORTED.

2. OF GREATER INTEREST, BUCHER-JOHANNESSEN NOTED, WAS FACT THAT SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY(MFA) HAD SENT FOUR-MAN DELEGATION TO VISIT SVALBARD--WITHOUT ANY PRIOR NOTIFICATION TO NORWEGIAN AUTHORITIES. THIS IS FIRST TIME HE RECALLED SUCH A VISIT. NORWEGIAN EVIDENTLY LEARNED OF TRAVEL ONLY WHEN GROUP ARRIVED IN TROMSO WHERE THEY WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO FLY IN ON STORE NORSK COAL CO. CHARTER PLANE. WE ARE NOW INFORMED THAT DELEGATION CONSISTED OF V.TOLSTOV (PROBABLY HEAD OF MFA'S NORWEGIAN DESK) MFA CONSULTANT FNU GUSAREV (PROBABLY KGB) MFA OFFICIAL BONDAR(PERHAPS ALEKSEY WHO HAS SERVED IN SEVERAL SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES) AND FNU ELISSEEV, ENGINEER WITH STATE COMMITTEE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

3. COMMENT: WE CAN ONLY GUESS AT THE PURPOSE OF THESE VISITS. IT WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING, HOWEVER, IF USSR WAS REVIEWING ITS SVALBARD POLICY IN LIGHT OF THE NORWEGIAN SVALBARD REPORT UP FOR DISCUSSION IN THE STARTING THIS AUTUMN, AND MOSCOW'S DIFFERENCES WITH NORWAY OVER THEIR RESPECTIVE INTERPRETATIONS OF THE SVALBARD TREATY.
BUCHANAN

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